Bio-diversity conservation

1898. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bio-diversity of the country has been assessed using satellite data including the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether the results of the study are being used in planning bio-diversity conservation measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government through the Department of Bio-technology and the Department of Space have jointly carried out Bio-diversity characterization at landscape level using satellite data. The data generated is integrated in the Geographic Information System for landscape analysis. This information base, which is of immense value, is used by Government and State Forest Departments for conservation related activities.

Transgenic crop policy

1899. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to review the transgenic crop policy of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received some adverse reports on the performance of Bt. Cotton; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government are following a case by case policy for approval of transgenic crops, since the bio-safety assessment